

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Luis Elenes

Serial No.: 10/726,808

Filed: December 2, 2003

Docket No.: 200309860-1

Title: PROCESSING SHEET MEDIA

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 34 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of processing sheet media, comprising:
moving a sheet medium upward by contact of a face of the sheet medium with a roller rotating about an axis of rotation; and
carrying a trailing edge of the sheet medium upward and then over the roller with a member,
wherein the member includes a body and at least one finger projecting from the body,
wherein the member is connected to the roller such that the finger completely orbits the axis of rotation along a circular path, wherein the finger has a distal tip that is spaced farthest from the body and a proximal portion disposed adjacent the body, wherein the finger has an undeflected configuration that defines a central axis extending away from the body to the distal tip along a nonlinear path, wherein the proximal portion of the finger includes a thinned region defined by a recessed portion disposed on a side of the finger, and wherein the moving includes rotating the roller in a first direction and deflecting the finger in a second direction opposite to the first direction.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the carrying includes engaging the trailing edge with the finger.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the carrying a trailing edge further comprises carrying the trailing edge of the sheet medium through about 90 to about 180 degrees of a circular path.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising spacing the trailing edge from the roller using gravity after carrying.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising placing colorant on the sheet medium before the carrying.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A media processing apparatus, comprising:
a rotatable member; and
at least one resilient finger connected to the rotatable member, the at least one resilient finger configured to engage a trailing edge of a sheet medium and lift the trailing edge upward and over the rotatable member as the rotatable member rotates, wherein the rotatable member is configured to rotate in a direction, and wherein the at least one resilient finger is configured to bend opposite to the direction upon contact with a face of the sheet medium,

wherein the at least one resilient finger is configured to have a retracted position and an extended position, wherein the at least one resilient finger is configured to be placed in the retracted position by contact with a face of the sheet medium and to return to the extended position when the contact is removed,

wherein the rotatable member defines a radius, wherein the at least one resilient finger includes a distal portion spaced farthest from the rotatable member and configured to be disposed inside the radius in the retracted position and outside the radius in the extended

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position, and wherein the at least one resilient finger includes a proximal portion disposed adjacent the rotatable member,

wherein the distal portion of the at least one resilient finger tapers in thickness to a distal tip, and wherein the proximal portion of the at least one resilient finger includes a thinned region defined by a recessed portion disposed on a side of the at least one resilient finger at which the at least one resilient finger bends selectively in response to the contact with the face of the sheet medium.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one resilient finger includes a plurality of spaced resilient fingers.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a colorant application mechanism configured to apply a colorant to the sheet medium.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising an output site for receiving printed sheet media, and wherein the at least one resilient finger is configured to lift the sheet medium over the rotatable member to enable the trailing edge of the sheet medium to reach the output site.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one resilient finger is connected integrally to the rotatable member.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

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23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for displacing a sheet of print medium from a direction of movement of the print medium produced by a roller, comprising:

a body configured to be connected to the roller for rotation therewith; and

at least one resilient finger connected to the body and configured to be deflected toward the body, and generally away from the direction of movement, by contact with a face of the print medium to permit movement of the medium along the path and also being configured to engage a trailing edge of the print medium to carry the trailing edge away from the path as the resilient finger rotates,

wherein the at least one resilient finger includes a proximal portion disposed adjacent the body, wherein the proximal portion includes a thinned region formed by a cavity defined by an exterior surface of the resilient finger, wherein the resilient finger bends sharply at the thinned region upon contact with the face of the print medium to produce deflection, and wherein the resilient finger is configured to vertically lift the print medium.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A method of processing sheet media, comprising:

moving a sheet medium upward by contact of a face of the sheet medium with a roller rotating about an axis of rotation;

carrying a trailing edge of the sheet medium upward and then over the roller with a member including a body and at least one finger projecting from the body; and

spacing the trailing edge of the sheet medium from the roller using gravity after the carrying,

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wherein the member is connected to the roller such that the finger completely orbits the axis of rotation along a circular path, wherein the finger has a distal tip that is spaced farthest from the axis of rotation and a proximal portion spaced closest to the axis of rotation, wherein the proximal portion of the finger includes a thinned region defined by a recessed portion disposed on a side of the finger, and wherein the finger has an unbiased configuration in which the finger extends away from the body to the distal tip in an undivided fashion along a nonlinear path.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein moving the sheet medium includes rotating the roller in a first direction and deflecting the finger in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein deflecting the finger further includes deflecting the finger toward the side of the finger on which the recessed portion is disposed.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein deflecting the finger includes bending the finger at the thinned region upon contact with the face of the sheet medium.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein deflecting the finger in the second direction further includes deflecting the finger toward the side of the finger on which the recessed portion is disposed.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the recessed portion is disposed on a side of the at least one resilient finger toward which the at least one resilient finger bends selectively in response to the contact with the face of the sheet medium.

34. (Canceled)